

### **Proposed Code Changes to the Building Code**

The Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits propose the following changes to the Howard County Building Code.

- 1) Update all code references from the 2006 edition to the 2009 edition.
- 2) Under “Work that does not require a permit”, we are specifying replacement of electrical hot water heaters only as we want to clarify that this section was not intended for new installations.
- 3) Also under “Work that does not require a permit” detached structures less than 200 square feet, we have eliminated pagodas because by definition it is a very large and tall structure that we feel should be permitted.
- 4) We eliminated the exemption for plans for a one story addition less than 600 square feet. The code has imposed over the years requirements that make it essential that we have a set of drawings even for these small additions.
- 5) A new Section 106 was added to the 2009 International Building Code (IBC) requiring signage to post building floor loads. We deleted this Section because floor load designs vary throughout the structure and this would be a difficult Section to enforce.
- 6) We have reorganized the location of Howard County’s previous amendment for the labeling of fire walls, fire barriers, and smoke barriers because the IBC has now included this in the code. We just had to make slight modifications to maintain current practices.
- 7) Section’s 903.3.1.2.1 and 1406.3 previously had been deleted, we have decided to move forward with requiring sprinklers on balconies and decks as required by these two code Sections.
- 8) Section R313.2 of the International Residential Code 2009 (IRC) will require Automatic Sprinkler Systems in 1 and 2 family dwellings beginning January 1, 2011. DILP and the State of Maryland propose to maintain this code change as written in the IRC.
- 9) Table R301.2.4 has always been present in the code and was always left blank with the intention that it be filled in based on the adjacent tables. DILP has decided to fill in this Table for the designers in order to have the information readily available for them.
- 10) The parts of Section R311 that reference the stair geometry, DILP has removed the local amendment and propose utilizing the stair geometry as stated in Sections R311.7. This will make Howard County requirements the same as the National code. The State of Maryland has also proposed to remove a similar code amendment from the State Code.
- 11) DILP has eliminated a local amendment under the previous addition R317.2.2 and under this addition it would have been R302.2.2. This amendment eliminated the requirement for FRT plywood on both sides of a parapet for townhouse construction that is sprinkled. DILP has decided to go with the National code and require FRT wood even in sprinkler construction because in a NFPA 13 D sprinkler system the attic is unsprinkled.
- 12) Appendix K was adopted to regulate sound transmission between dwellings in residential construction. This replaces old amendment R317.4.
- 13) Deleted previous amendments to Sections R403 and R404 because the IRC requirements are now equivalent to Howard County’s previous amendment.

- 14) Removed local amendment R903.4.2 because this item is adequately addressed in other Sections of the code.
- 15) 401.3 of the International Energy Conservation Code, DILP has deleted this section because this requirement could be difficult to enforce.

#### **Proposed Code Changes to the Plumbing Code**

- 1) Adopting Appendix G for gray water systems.
- 2) Updating the references to the 2009 National Standard Plumbing Code and 2009 NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code.
- 3) 5.5.1 (C). We added private sewer systems to this requirement.
- 4) 7.15.2 and 7.15.3 discharge from sink or dishwasher. We eliminated allowing the discharge to go to a trap or standpipe.
- 5) 7.21.1. We deleted the Howard County local amendment for plumbing fixtures in Assembly A-3 occupancies. The new requirements are equivalent to Howard County's past local amendment.
- 6) 10.5.9. We revised the wording to clarify when a reduced pressure zone backflow preventer is required on sprinkler systems.
- 7) 10.15.9.3. We eliminated the option of discharging within 2 to 6 inches above the floor.
- 8) Section 3.305(e), Duration of permit. We changed the expiration of a permit from one year to 180 days. Expiration after 180 days is consistent with other permits. Also, an express permit shall expire within 1 year. Currently, there is no expiration date for an express plumbing permit.